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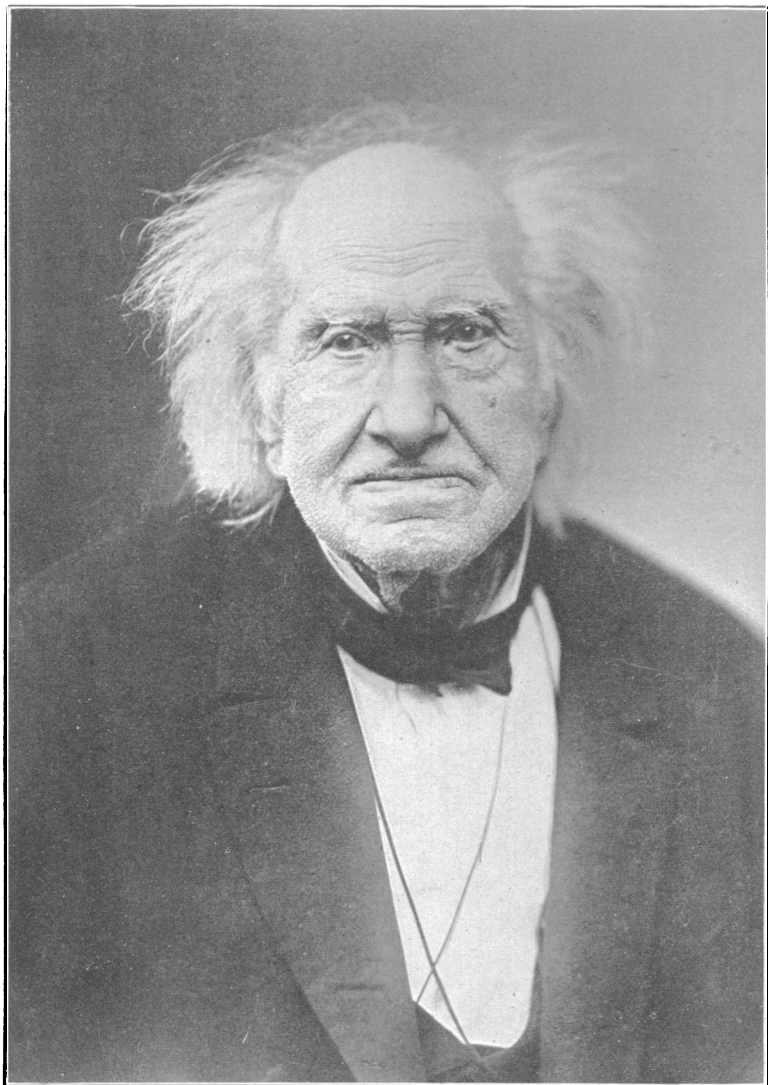
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MICHAEL EUGENE CHEVREUL,

The distinguished French chemist, long professor of organic chemistry and director of the Paris Museum of Natural History, retiring from the directorship at the age of ninety-three years, though still continuing his professorship. Chevreul's scientific work covers a wide range, but he is best known for his researches on animal fats. Chevreul died in his hundred and third year, the photograph here reproduced having been taken when he was a hundred years of age.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

CHEMISTS AND NATIONAL SERVICE

THE recent report of a committee of chemists to the Council of National Defense embodies a plan for the training and conservation of chemists and for the utilization of their knowledge and skill in the service of the government. The experience of the other belligerents has shown the wisdom of such foresight. England, France and Italy found it necessary to recall all chemists from the ranks, Canada does not allow them to enlist, and careful observers have insisted that Germany has been saved thus far in large measure through its chemists and other scientific men.

The committee of chemists pointed out the present shortage of trained men in that science, which is becoming more acute through the demands of war conditions. It requires from four to seven years to train a chemist, the longer period being required by those equipping themselves for the doctorate, on whom will fall the vast needs of the government and industries for solving new and difficult problems of research. When the more mature chemists are called into the service of the government, younger men must be trained to fill the vacant positions. The committee of chemists therefore decided that: "It is of greatest importance that steps be taken: (1) To keep and impress into service in chemical lines chemists drawn by the draft for service in the United States Army or Navy. (2) To provide means for keeping open sources of supply of chemists from universities, colleges and schools of technology and to procure volunteers in chemistry."

The plan proposed to attain these ends provides for a committee of three, preferably one industrial chemist, one university professor and one government representative, to advise the President through the War Department on requests for exemptions. Requests for exemptions of individual chemists are to be made to this committee by government, state or municipal laboratories, and heads of manufacturing plants on the basis of the imperative need of these men, or by the presidents of universities, colleges and schools on the basis of the proficiency, promise and ability of students seeking degrees in chemistry. Only students who will receive their doctor's degree by 26 or their bachelor's degree by 23 years of age should be considered for exemption. Chemists under 21 or over 30 years of age, or those between these ages who have not been drafted may enlist as volunteers in chemistry, subject to the same conditions as the enlisted and exempted men. Students under 21 years of age may enroll in a "chemical reserve," subject to the same conditions as obtained for other government reserves. Men thus enrolled shall be subject to the orders of the government as to the location and nature of their service, and, following the practise of France, shall be entitled to wear a badge or other insignia indicating their official status.

Similar recommendations have been made by other committees representing other sciences in their endeavor to place the knowledge, skill and resources of scientific men at the disposal of the government for war service. The representatives of

other sciences have recommended the conservation of the younger men of science by drafting them into scientific service rather than into the army or navy, and have pointed out the importance of abundant provision for the training of additional men of science. Scientific knowledge offers no special resistance to bullets, but when applied to artillery, munitions, transportation, food products or sanitation, it may be the means of saving thousands of lives and millions of dollars.

THE INFANT DEATH RATE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Low wages of fathers and the gainful employment of mothers away from home accompany an excessive death rate among babies in Manchester, N. H., according to the report on infant mortality in that city which has been issued by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The study was based primarily on interviews with the babies' mothers. It was absolutely democratic in scope and included all babies whose births were registered during a single year and whose families could be found. Of all the babies studied, one in six—165 per 1,000—had died during the first year of life. There were wide variations in rate between different groups of the population, according to the fathers' earnings, the employment of the mother, the congestion of the home, and the way in which the baby had been fed.

Nearly half of the 1,643 babies had fathers whose earnings were less than \$650 a year, and more than one eighth of the babies had fathers earning less than \$450 a year. Only one in sixteen (6.4 per cent.) had fathers earning as much as \$1,250. The death rate among the babies in the poorest families

was more than four times as high as among those in the highest wage group.

Low earnings on the part of the father appear to be the most potent reason for the mother's going to work. Where the fathers earned less than \$450 a year almost three fourths of the mothers were gainfully employed during some part of the year after the baby's birth. As the fathers' earnings rise, the proportion of working mothers falls, until in the group where fathers earned \$1,050 or over, less than one tenth of the mothers worked.

Keeping lodgers was the chief occupation of those who worked at home, and working in the textile mills was the chief occupation of those who worked away from home. The mothers of 267 babies went out to work during the first year of the baby's life, and these babies had a death rate considerably higher than those whose mothers worked at home, or were not gainfully employed. The rate is especially high—277.3 per 1,000—among the 119 babies whose mothers went out to work before they were four months old.

The babies were grouped also according to the kind of house in which the family lived. The death rate for babies whose homes were in one-family houses was 86.1 per 1,000; in houses containing seven or more families 236.6 per 1,000. Similarly the rate showed a steady increase according to the number of persons per room. It was 123.3 per 1,000 where the family had more rooms than persons; and 245.9 where there were two or more persons per room.

THE SAN SALVADOR EARTHQUAKE

DR. HERBERT J. SPINDEN, assistant curator of anthropology of the